	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Jharkhand			58
Karnataka			623
Kerala			385
Madhya Pradesh			2193
Maharashtra			630
North-East-I			140
North-East-II			78
Orissa			388
Punjab			701
Rajasthan			328
Tamil Nadu			267
UP (East)			211
UP (West)			212
Uttaranchal			300
West Bengal			149
Kolkata Telephones		All Exchanges on demand	

Conversion of Post Offices into Finance Bazars

†916. SHRI SURENDRA LATH:
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme to convert Post Offices into Finance Bazars for providing various financial services to the customers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the said scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. The Department of Posts has formulated a scheme for providing Post Office Savings Bank and other financial services through some Post Offices designated as Postal Finance Marts (PFMs).

(b) The Postal Finance Mart is proposed as a 'One-Stop Shop' for providing financial services/products to the Post Office customers. The

†Original notice of question was received in Hindi.

Postal Finance Marts (PFMs) will provide financial services/products like Post Office Savings Bank Schemes, Postal Life Insurance, International Money Transfer, Mutual Funds and Bonds, Dated Government Securities, Non Life Insurance Products, Pension Schemes etc. to the customers.

(c) The scheme will be implemented in the Tenth Five Year Plan.

Expansion and upgradation of telecom services in Himachal Pradesh and Orissa

†917. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:
SHRI SURENDRA LATH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of work carried out in rural and urban areas of Himachal Pradesh and Orissa for the development, expansion and upgradation of telecommunication facilities during the last three years;

(b) whether the above work are going at slow pace in rural areas;

(c) if so, the Government's response thereon and the steps taken in this regard; and

(d) the extent of success achieved after taking such measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The details of work carried out in rural and urban areas of Himachal Pradesh and Orissa for the development, expansion and upgradation of telecommunication facilities during the last three years is given in Statement (*See* below).

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) For faster development of network in the rural areas, following steps are being taken:—

(i) Large scale deployment of WLL network in rural areas. As per plan a total of 33 WLL BTS in Himachal Pradesh and 125 WLL BTS in Orissa are planned to be installed during 2005-06.

(ii) Relaxation of the outdoor cable norms to 5 Kms. Against the earlier standard of 2.5 Kms. for Landline Exchanges.

(iii) BSNL is deploying its mobile network in all the highways, important towns, pilgrim centers and State highways in that order of priority,

†Original notice of question was received in Hindi